

Appendix C: Access Roads

Access roads provide critical links between public-use airport facilities and the public roadway network serving the surrounding area. Public access roads on airport property provide access to public areas on an airport. Funding sources for access roads vary based on the location of the roads. The design and construction of access roads built within airport property boundaries are eligible for federal capital improvement funding and state funding through the Airport Capital Program. This type of access road may also be eligible for funding under the Virginia Department of Transportation's Airport Access Program when the road will be accepted into the state's highway system. An access road not located within airport property boundaries is eligible for funding under VDOT's Airport Access Program. These access roads are not eligible for federal or state aviation funding.

If an access road is eligible for federal funding, federal funding must be maximized before a sponsor applies for a state project. VDOT funding for access roads must be maximized before a sponsor seeks funding from the Virginia Department of Aviation for these roads when applicable. VDOT funds are considered state funding when calculating the funding participation ratios when federal, state, and local agency funds will be used to finance the road.

C.1 VDOT Airport Access Program

To assist in the development or improvement of access to licensed public-use airports, VDOT established the Airport Access Program. Under the program, a locality may receive up to \$300,000 in unmatched VDOT funds and up to an additional \$150,000 in matching VDOT funds at a dollar for dollar match. This funding formula for a project results in \$450,000 in funds from VDOT and \$150,000 from local resources for a total of \$600,000. The locality shall be responsible for:

- providing the matching share from sources other than those allocated by the Commonwealth Transportation Board
- providing clear title to the right-of-way prescribed by VDOT
- incurring the cost for utility adjustments
- incurring the cost for environmental studies
- incurring the cost for project related permits

If the access road is located on airport property, DOAV funds may be used at the appropriate participation rate towards the local share to match VDOT funds. The DOAV funds may also be used to assist with securing right of way, utility adjustments, and environmental studies.

Under the Airport Access Program, eligible projects are the design and construction of:

- new access roads for a new airport or a new facility being constructed on airport property, such as an air cargo apron or building
- upgrades to an existing access road, including widening and adding turn lanes

Eligible items within a project are those items necessary for the design and construction of an adequate roadway facility to serve traffic generated by the airport's operation. Eligible items include:

- grading
- drainage
- pavement
- traffic control marking and signage

Ineligible items include:

- storm sewers
- curb and gutter
- landscaping
- pavement in excess of that required to serve the forecasted traffic resulting from the development of the airport

This program is open to counties, cities, and certain towns, so airport sponsors must apply to this program through their local governing body.

Airport sponsors should contact VDOT for detailed information on the program. VDOT's website, www.virginia.gov, provides program and contact information.

C.2 Perimeter Roads

A perimeter road provides restricted access within an airport's airfield. These perimeter roads are used by airport, DOAV, and FAA staff to conduct business activities, such as security checks and maintenance work, on an airport. Airport Capital Program funds may be used to design and construct perimeter roads.

C.3 Maintenance of Access and Perimeter Roads

State funding may be used to maintain portions of access and perimeter roads for which state aviation funding was used for road design and construction. The state participation rate for access and perimeter road maintenance follows the rate structure described in 9.2.1 Facility Maintenance Projects. When a project request is for the maintenance of an access or perimeter road constructed without state aviation funding, DOAV must first inspect the road to determine necessary improvements and eligibility.